

HANS MATHIAS PETERSON

Lehi Centennial History 1850-1950

Hans Mathias Peterson, son of Peter and Karen Mariah Hanson Peterson, was born August 15, 1845, in Bornholm, Denmark. He had one sister, Christiana. The Peterson family came to America soon after joining the Mormon Church when Matt, as he was called, was nine years old.

He worked for the railroad when a young man and was present when Brigham Young drove the golden spike at Promontory Point.

When eighteen years old, he enlisted in the Black Hawk War of 1867. In 1872 he helped haul granite for the Salt Lake Temple. He worked for Bower Pettit as a fisherman on Utah Lake for some time; and later he and George Johnson spent several years fishing, hunting, and trapping, on or near this beautiful body of fresh water.

A lover of music, he bought violin from Henry Walker and was soon able to play dances with his father-in-law, Alonzo D. Rhodes.

Due to a hip injury in later life he took up shoe making. People came from all over town to have their shoes mended, and children came in groups to hear him tell Indian stories and hear him play on a fiddle made from a licorice box.

He was a member of the City Council in 1906.

On January 1, 1872, he married his childhood sweetheart, Adeline Molissa Rhodes, in the Endowment House. Their ten children were: Allie, Louis, Rean, Ellis, Juel, Sam, Rose, Wallace, Viola, and Deloras. He passed away at his home October 31, 1929.

Adeline Molissa Rhodes, daughter of Barabara Kearns and Alonzo D. Rhodes, was born October 11, 1855, in Lehi, Utah.

When she was a tiny baby, Mathias Peterson came with her brother to see her and said, "She will be my wife." When she was seventeen that vow was fulfilled in the endowment House in Salt Lake City.

Adeline or Addie, as she was called by everyone, was a good wife and mother who taught her children to pray and have faith in prayers. She was a Relief Society teacher and a member of Daughter of Utah Pioneers.

Aunt Addie was known for her neatness and every morning was seen sweeping her door yards and even the street in front of her house.

She was the mother of ten children: Mathias Albert, Charles Louis, Adeline Lorena (Bone), Ellis Alonzo, Juliet (Jackson), George Samuel, Barbara Roseabell (Lott), Wallace Benjamin, Viola Alvrenia (Brown), and Della Deloras.

After the death of her husband, she was very lonely, and her sister, Alvrenia Wilcox, lived with her. Alvrenia died June 9, 1933, and her son, Louis and his family moved in with her.

Following a lingering illness, she passed away at her home May 26, 1940.